REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 28, 2004. Claims 1, 4 and 6 to 40 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 4, 6, 15, 21, 27, 33, 39 and 40 are the independent claims. Claims 2 to 3, 5 and 41 to 60 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 1, 4, 6, 15, 21, 27, 33, 39 and 40 are being amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to Claims 28, 41, 42, 47 and 52. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Claims 41, 42, 47 and 52 are cancelled. In response to the objection to Claim 28, the amendments to Claim 27 are believed to obviate the objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

By the Office Action, Claims 1 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over WO 95/35534, and Claims 7 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). More particularly, Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 were rejected over Combaluzier and U.S. Patent 6,249,644 (Inoue), Claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 were rejected over Combaluzier and U.S. Patent 5,761,485 (Munyan), and Claims 15 to 40 were rejected over Combaluzier and U.S. Patent 6,032,857 (Kitagawa).

The present invention generally concerns a user interface in which arbitrarily-shaped indicia are arranged on a card independent of the location of corresponding touch membranes. Mapping data stored in memory of the card defines an arbitrarily-shaped bounding box delineating a mapped position of each indicium on the

substrate. The card is inserted into a card reader having a touch sensitive membrane. An indicium is selectable via the touch sensitive membrane. In response to a touch, the membrane provides coordinates corresponding to the location of the touch. Selection of an indicium is established when touch coordinates are generated which fall within the bounding box of the indicium.

By virtue of the above-discussed features of the invention, an arbitrarily-shaped indicium, which is arranged independent of a selection location, can be selected by touching a membrane within an arbitrarily-shaped bounding box mapped to the indicium. Thus, selectable indicia may be arranged in any manner on the card.

Among its features, the present invention has the features of: 1) a card comprising a substrate with arbitrarily-shaped indicia formed on the substrate and a memory which stores mapping data defining an arbitrarily-shaped bounding box delineating a mapped position of each indicium on the substrate, 2) a reader with a touch-sensitive membrane, 3) the indicia of the card are arranged independent of where a touch can be applied to the membrane, 4) the touch-sensitive membrane provides touch coordinates corresponding to a location of a touch on the membrane, and 5) touch coordinates falling within an arbitrarily-shaped bounding box establishes selection of a corresponding indicium.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest these features.

More particularly, Combaluzier is seen to describe a control unit with a transparent keypad, into which a smart card is inserted. The smart card of Combaluzier is seen to include data disposed on the back of the smart card, which when the smart card is

inserted into the control unit is subjacent to the transparent keys and is superposed on the transparent keys of the keypad and each key relates to the subjacent data of the memory card. (See Combaluzier, page 6, line 23 to page 7, line 3, Figures 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.) Thus, Combaluzier is seen to describe indicia whose arrangement on the card is dependent on the location of the touch areas of the keypad used to select the indicia.

The remaining art applied against one or more of the pending claims, namely Inoue, Munyan and Kitagawa, is not seen to remedy the deficiencies noted with respect to Combaluzier.

As depicted in Figure 3 and described commencing at col. 7, line 31, Inoue is seen to describe a similar arrangement to that described in Combaluzier. More particularly, Inoue is seen to describe image frames conforming to a standard shape, and the location of each frame depends on the location of a touch switch by which the image frame is selected.

Munyan is seen to describe that indicia identifying a selection is superposed with the touch area used to select the indicia. (See Munyan, Figure 1 and col. 12, lines 20 to 26.) Thus, as with Combaluzier and Inoue, Munyan is seen to describe an arrangement of indicia which is dependent on the location of the touch areas used to select the indicia.

Kitagawa has been reviewed and is not seen to above-noted features of the claims.

More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of: 1) a card comprising a substrate with arbitrarily-shaped indicia formed on the substrate and a memory which stores mapping data defining an arbitrarily-shaped bounding

box delineating a mapped position of each indicium on the substrate, 2) a reader with a touch-sensitive membrane, 3) the indicia of the card are arranged independent of where a touch can be applied to the membrane, 4) the touch-sensitive membrane provides touch coordinates corresponding to a location of a touch on the membrane, and 5) touch coordinates falling within an arbitrarily-shaped bounding box establishes selection of a corresponding indicium.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 15, 21, 27, 33, 39 and 40 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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